ILLAWARRA AND ENVIRONS - A PICTORIAL SURVEY

The Society has received the following letter from the Education Officer, Wollongong City Gallery:

It is with great pleasure that we bring to your attention the coming exhibition of the Illawarra and Environs - 200 years of imagery. We feel that this exhibition will be of special interest to your organisation and invite you to view the exhibition from 9 June to 31 July 1988. Please contact Mr. P.C. Trick, Education Office, Wollongong City Gallery, telephone number 27-7461/7462, with any enquiries. Tours and talks with support pictorials can be arranged.

Yours sincerely,
Phil Trick,
Education Officer.

"WYEWURK" PRESERVATION

In accordance with a resolution of the Council of the Society, the President has written to the Heritage Council of New South Wales as follows:

The President,
Heritage Council of New South Wales,
Dear Sir,

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Illawarra Historical Society, serious concern was expressed concerning the proposed extensions to 'Wyeewurk', 3 Craig Street, Thirroul, the house occupied by D.H. Lawrence in 1922. That an internationally famous writer stayed in the house while he was writing a book that became a classic of English literature is sufficient to make the 78 year old, soundly built and well preserved dwelling a memorable one. Of even greater significance is the fact that Lawrence was producing Kangaroo, his only novel with an Australian setting.

In this book he minutely describes the house, both inside and outside, the sea and the beach with its view of the nearby Bulli coal mines jetty. He describes too the sports ground, Bulli Pass and the bush, its birds and flowers. He describes the ordinary people of Thirroul and Sydney. The house is the scene of his life with his wife: mingling with his story of the larger power struggle in the Australian political world is the personal struggle that he observes in the relationship of wives and husbands.

'Wyeewurk' therefore represents several aspects of Illawarra and Australian heritage. Kangaroo has value as a historical document; it has great appeal for tourists: the natural enviroment, described by Lawrence with the skill of a painter is still much the same and would attract visitors for the sake of the beauty. 'Wyeewurk' has the same appeal that Shakespeare's Stratford-on-Avon has for lovers literature and history, or just lovers of the houses of the famous.

'Wyeewurk' has already seen a number of alterations, made for the comfort of living for its various purchasers. We urge you to do everything in the power of the Heritage Council to prevent any further development or further change to the appearance and character of the house as it was portrayed by D.H. Lawrence in 1922.

Yours sincerely,
(Dr.) Winifred Mitchell,
President.